Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 04704 151256Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03
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P R 151251Z MAR 78
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6778
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USBERLIN PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 04704

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV PINS PINT GW GE UR US
SUBJECT: "DER SPIEGEL" PUBLISHES ARTICLE ON
VON BERG ARREST

REFS: (A) BERLIN 1835; (B) BONN 4356

1. JUST PUBLISHED MARCH 13 EDITION OF "DER SPIEGEL" CARRIES ARTICLE ON ALLEGED ARREST OF HERMANN VON BERG. THE MAGAZINE CLAIMS VON BERG'S ARREST IS PART OF A WAVE OF ARRESTS AND INTERROGATIONS OF IMPORTANT GDR POLITICAL FIGURES WHOM A NERVOUS ERICH HONECKER SUSPECTS OF INVOLVEMENT IN THE PUBLICATION OF THE "SED OPPOSITION MANIFESTO".

2. ONLY SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES FROM TEXT REPORTED IN REF B IS THE "WAVE OF ARRESTS" THEORY AND SEVERAL NEW INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPHS WHICH EXAMINE THE POSSIBLE REASONS FOR VON BERG'S SUDDEN REAPPEARANCE (REF A).
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"SPIEGEL" SPECULATES THAT HONECKER MAY HAVE HAD VON BERG RELEASED AFTER HIS ARREST WAS REPORTED IN THE PRESS IN ORDER TO AVOID A FURTHER DETERIORATION IN FRG-GDR RELATIONS WHICH MIGHT HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY ANGERED VON BERG CONTACTS IN THE FRG. ALTERNATIVELY, "SPIEGEL" BELIEVES STOPH MAY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MARSHALL ENOUGH PRESSURE ON HONECKER TO OBTAIN VON BERG'S RELEASE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, ARRESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BONN04704
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780115-0139
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780368/aaaaceyy.tel
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 BERLIN 1835, 78 BONN 4356
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3329440
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: \"DER SPIEGEL\" PUBLISHES ARTICLE ON VON BERG ARREST
TAGS: PGOV, PINS, PINT, GE, GC, UR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/19f86dc7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014